

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims would replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A recording and reproducing apparatus that is operable according to first, second, third, and fourth operating modes, the apparatus comprising:

means for recording a content supplied from an external device;  
means for reproducing the content, the reproducing means buffering  
content data before reproduction;  
means for detecting that a sufficient amount of the content data is buffered  
when a recording command is issued during reproduction;  
means for enabling said recording means when said detecting means  
detects that the sufficient amount of the content data is buffered;  
means for setting as an operation mode one of the first, second, third, or  
fourth operation modes; and  
means for controlling said recording means and said reproducing means  
in accordance with the operation mode when said detecting means  
detects that the sufficient amount of the content data is not  
buffered,

wherein: ~~said setting means sets one of a first mode, second  
mode, third mode, and fourth mode,~~

in the first mode reproduction is continued if the  
apparatus is connected to the external  
apparatus during reproduction,

in the second mode reproduction is stopped and  
recording is started if the apparatus is

connected to the external apparatus during reproduction,  
in the third mode recording is started after reproduction is completed if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction, and  
in the fourth mode reproduction is interrupted and recording is started if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction and after recording is completed, the interrupted reproduction is restarted.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said setting means comprises an interface device for manually presetting the operation mode.

Claims 16-29 (Canceled).

30. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling a recording and reproducing apparatus comprising means for recording a content supplied from an external device and means for reproducing the content, the reproducing means buffering content data before reproduction, the method comprising:

detecting that a sufficient amount of the content data is buffered when a recording command is issued during reproduction;  
enabling said recording means when said detecting means detects that the sufficient amount of the content data is buffered;  
setting an operation mode; and

controlling said recording means and said reproducing means in accordance with the operation mode when it is detected that the sufficient amount of the content data is not buffered, wherein the operation mode includes a first mode, a second mode, a third mode, and a fourth mode, and wherein in the first mode reproduction is continued if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction, in the second mode reproduction is stopped and recording is started if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction, in the third mode recording is started after reproduction is completed if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction, and in the fourth mode reproduction is interrupted and recording is started if the apparatus is connected to the external apparatus during reproduction and after recording is completed, the interrupted reproduction is restarted.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a recording and reproducing apparatus that is operable according to first, second, third, and fourth operating modes, the apparatus comprising means for recording a content supplied from an external device and means for reproducing the content, the reproducing means buffering content data before reproduction, the method comprising:
- detecting that a sufficient amount of the content data is buffered when a recording command is issued during reproduction;
  - enabling said recording means when said detecting means detects that the sufficient amount of the content data is buffered;

setting as an operation mode one of the first, second, third, or fourth  
operation modes; and

controlling said recording means and said reproducing means in  
accordance with the operation mode when it is detected that the  
sufficient amount of the content data is not buffered,

wherein said setting comprises setting the operation mode  
using a manual interface device.

Claims 32-34 (Canceled).